

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17 - 18 and 20 remained in this application. Claims 1 – 10 were allowed by the Examiner in the first Office Action and remained unchanged. Claims 12, 14, 16 and 19 had previously been cancelled.

In his Second Office Action of April 20, 2005 the Examiner had indicated that claims 1-10 were drawn to a method for manufacturing pharmaceutical water, classified in class 210, subclass 664, and comprised one invention (Invention I); whereas claims 11, 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20 were drawn to an apparatus for purifying a liquid, classified in class 210, subclass 257.1, and comprised a separate and distinct invention (Invention II) and, for that reason, had acquired separate status in the art and their prosecution in this application must therefore be restricted to include an election of one of the above-mentioned inventions: I or II.

By this amendment Applicant has elected Invention I, that is, claims 1-10, which have already been allowed by the Examiner. Applicant would have no objection and hereby authorizes the Examiner to delete the words "AND SYSTEM" from the title of the invention in order to be consistent with the subject of the remaining method claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application, with its remaining ten method claims, complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 121 and is now in condition for issuance, and therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance so as to permit the application to proceed to issuance without delay.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference with applicant's attorney will help clarify any issues that may remain in connection with this Office Action, answer any questions or otherwise help expedite the prosecution of this application, he is requested to please call applicant's attorney at a time convenient to the Examiner during regular business hours at the telephone number set forth below. The Examiner is also invited to contact applicant's attorney via electronic mail at the electronic mail address set forth below.

A Certificate of Mailing is attached.

Please enter this Amendment in the record of this patent application and give it favorable consideration. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of any required fee to USPTO Deposit Account No. 501834.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raúl V. Fonte", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that the foregoing Amendment in the prosecution of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/661,661, including all attachments thereto, is being deposited with United States Postal Service Express Mail in an envelope addressed to Honorable Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 10, 2005.

Raúl V. Fonte